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SOLO
All New Story! All New Art!
Plus: A Sneak Preview Of THE ARGONAUTS
MUTANTS
PLUS:
THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF ERIN!

SOLO EX-MUTANTS

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AN *EX-MUTANTS UNIVERSE* TITLE

Solo Ex-Mutants: World War III erupted in the latter half of the Twentieth Century, destroying the sum total of human progress in one day of fire. Those who survived the terrible devastation brought about by the war were irrevocably changed into mockeries of human beings: twisted mutants fighting over scraps left over from a better time.

One man among them was unique, however. Though a mutant himself, Dr. Emmanuel Cugat had a dream: that of reversing the genetic damage spawned by the war.

After countless failures, Cugat transformed five special mutants—Angela, Belushi, Erin, Vikki, and Lorelei—back into human beings. Known collectively as the Ex-Mutants, they are the last hope of a dying world.

But all teams are comprised of individuals. Often, it is necessary for the Ex-Mutants to test their mettle against the perils of the world alone. Whether together or separate, however, the Ex-Mutants have become the living legends of the Shattered Earth. This is their story.

Ex-Mutants Continuity: This issue of **Solo Ex-Mutants**, "Ex-periment," takes place before the events occuring in **Ex-Mutants #1** and features the very first appearance of Erin, one of the original Ex-Mutants.

***Solo* Notes:** Scott Bieser, the featured penciller for this issue of **Solo Ex-Mutants**, is also illustrating **Dinosaurs For Hire** #4, and **Gambit**, a brand new series set aboard a gigantic space habitat: the Starship Gambit. Look for **Gambit** the first week in September. Dan Panosian is the regular inker for **Wild Knights**, and has a short story coming up in **Shattered Earth**, the new **Ex-Mutants** anthology title debuting in November.

SOLO EX-MUTANTS #4
July 1988.
Published bi-monthly by Eternity Comics, a division of Malibu Graphics, Inc., 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320. 805/499-3915.
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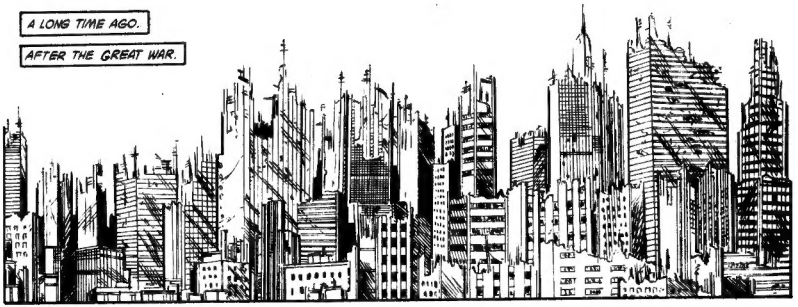
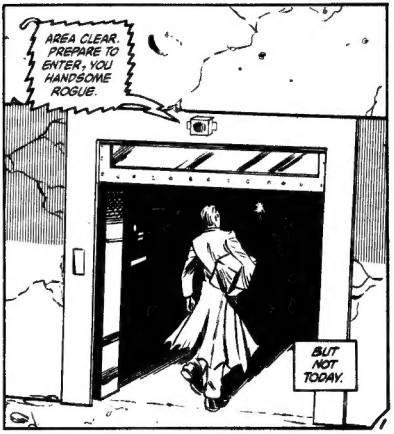

A LONG TIME AGO.
AFTER THE GREAT WAR.

AND BEFORE THE EX-MUTANTS.
THERE WAS ME ...DOC CUGAT.

I CREATED THE EX-MUTANTS.
IT'S ME, COMPUTER.


AREA CLEAR. PREPARE TO ENTER, YOU HANDSOME ROGUE.
BUT NOT TODAY.

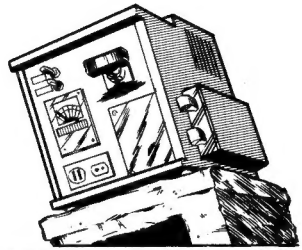
CHAPTER ONE
MAY 14.
I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE YEAR.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS ANY MORE.
NOTHING MATTERS BUT THE WORK.
THE FINAL CALCULATIONS SEEM CORRECT.
BUT THEY STILL DON'T WORK.
MAYBE THE BOMBS AFFECTED MY BRAIN MORE THAN I THOUGHT.
AND I'M OUT OF CIGARETTES.
I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE STORE AND GET ANOTHER CARTON.
YEAH. THE STORE.
HA. HA.

SOMEHOW I MUST REVERSE THE GENETIC PROCESS TO RESTORE AT LEAST SOME OF THE MUTANTS TO HUMAN FORM.
I DOUBT I HAVE THAT MANY MORE YEARS LEFT.
AND THERE SURE AS HELL ISN'T ANYONE TO CARRY ON MY WORK. TO RECLAIM THE HUMAN RACE.
AND HOW ARE MY LITTLE SAVIORS TODAY?

EX-PERIMENT

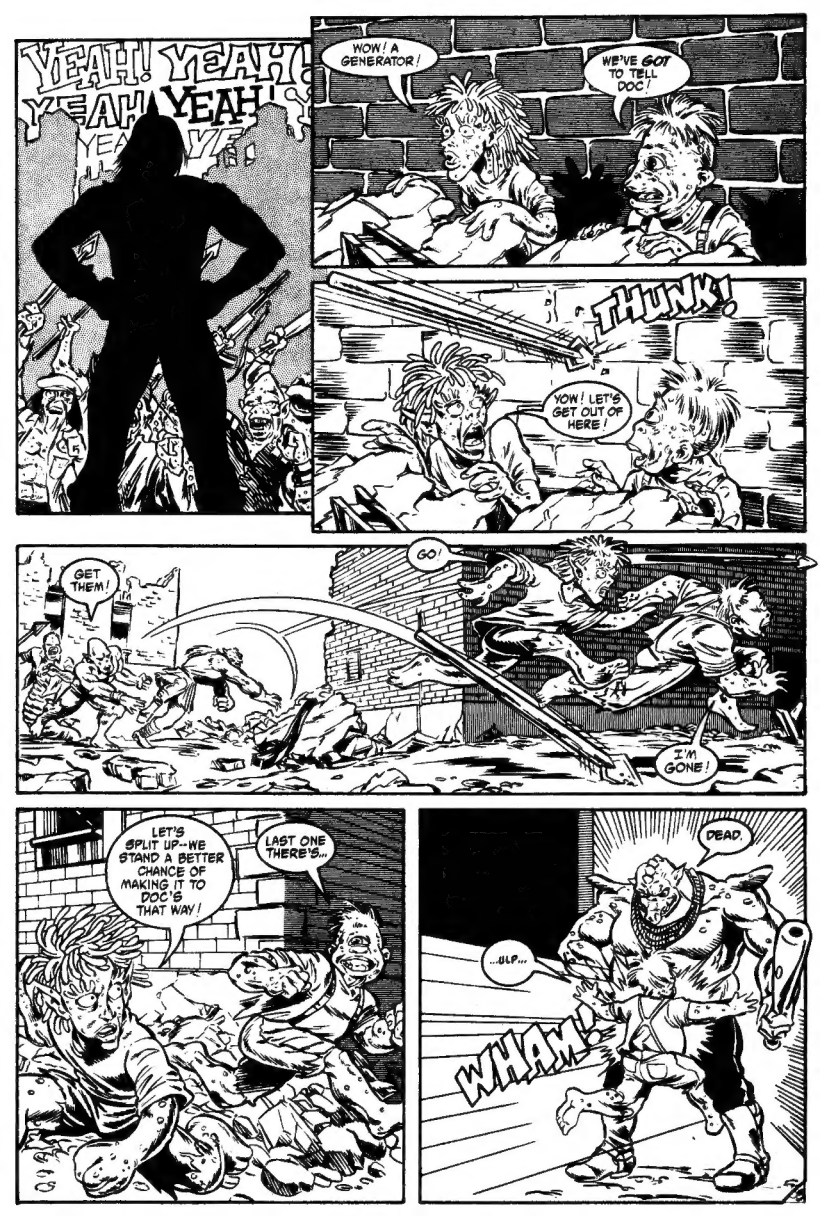
ELSEWHERE ...IN THE CITY.
GENTLEMEN, SOON THE CITY SHALL BE OURS!
THE ONLY THING PEOPLE TODAY WILL UNDERSTAND IS POWER...

AND WITH THIS GENERATOR, POWER WILL BE AT OUR FINGERTIPS!



ONCE WE HOOK THIS UP, WE'LL HAVE NOT JUST A LIGHT SOURCE...

BUT A MEANS TO POWER SEVERAL OF THE WEAPONS THAT WE'VE FOUND.


YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!
WOW! A GENERATOR!
WE'VE GOT TO TELL DOC!
THUNK!
YOW! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
GET THEM!
GO!
I'M GONE!
LET'S SPLIT UP--WE STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF MAKING IT TO DOC'S THAT WAY!
LAST ONE THERE'S...
DEAD.
...ULP...
WHAM!

TEMPERATURE READINGS STABLE ...VITAL SIGNS NORMAL, OR WHAT PASSES FOR NORMAL.
THE VOLTAGE LEVELS ARE DROPPING SLIGHTLY, KIDS.
IF I DON'T GET A NEW POWER SOURCE SOON, YOU WON'T BE SENDING ME ANY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
AT THE WAY THE LEVELS HAD BEEN DROPPING, I FIGURED I HAD ABOUT TWO WEEKS.
I'D BETTER GET THE SEARCH UNDER WAY.
AND ONCE I FIND A POWER SOURCE, I'D BETTER START LOOKING FOR MORE BULLETS.
HEY, DOC! IT'S ME! FISHER!

THEN I CAN GET DOWN TO THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF FINDING A PACK OF CIGARETTES.
Schreckuchen for FINE FASHION'S
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN FIND THE WAY BACK, FISHER?
I WASN'T TAKING NOTES THIS AFTERNOON, DOC, BUT I THINK IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
THERE! IT WAS RIGHT THERE, DOC! I SWEAR IT!
LOOKS CLEAR TO ME, FISHER.
FISHER! GET BACK HERE!
KEEP ME COVERED, DOC. I'M GOING IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!
LOOK OUT!
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP
VIP

BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
SO MUCH FOR THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
NOW TO FIND THE BOY.
PKT!
PKT!
PUT ME DOWN, YOU APE!
AND I WAS GOING TO GO TO THE KITCHEN FOR A MIDNIGHT SNACK.
BRAK AKAK!
THK! THK! THK!
GLGH!
NICE SHOOTIN', DOC. WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO DO THAT?
MED-SCHOOL.

GET THEM!
I WANT THEIR HEADS ON PIKES!
FISHER, GET OUT OF HERE!
BUT DOC...
GO!
HELP... GOTTA GET...
WHERE'S THE FIRE, LITTLE MAN?
...HELP ME... PLEASE...?
YOU'RE NOT MUCH WITHOUT YER SCATTER-GUN, TRICLOPS!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO STAY OUT OF OUR PART OF TOWN!
NOT THAT IT'S A LESSON YOU'LL KEEP FOR VERY LONG!
NO!
TWO CHOICES.
LET HIM GO...OR DIE.
SMALL MENU TONIGHT.

WELL, WE'RE CLOSIN' THIS RESTAURANT DOWN!
GET HER!

YAAAAA
AAAA

CHOP

FOOM

SLICE!

KLANG!

SLASH!

JUST A LITTLE CLOSER

HYURG!
THUNK!

WHAT? NO TIP?

MY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
DON'T LET MY WORK GO TO WASTE GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ERIN
JUST ERIN.

"I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, ERIN. AND I WILL BE BACK!"

CHAPTER TWO
I'VE GOT TO GET AT THAT GENERATOR, FISHER.
I'M GOING TO RELEASE FREDERICK.
DOC, NO! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
YOUR WORK IS TOO IMPORTANT!
WITHOUT THAT GENERATOR, HE'LL DIE ANYWAY, TAKING KASSI WITH HIM.
AND WITHOUT THEM, I HAVE NO WORK.
HOW LONG CAN HE STAY HUMAN?
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.
"BUT I ONLY NEED HIM FOR A FEW HOURS."
HELLO, DOC. IS THERE A MIRROR AROUND HERE?

FREDERICK WAS A GOOD PATIENT. I'D HATE TO LOSE HIM.
BUT TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE.
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY NEARBY. THEY'VE PROBABLY GOT THE GENERATOR IN THAT BIG BUILDING AT THE END OF THE STREET.
IT'S THE ONLY ONE STILL STANDING WITH NO VISIBLE DAMAGE.
I STILL REMEMBER OUR FIRST MEETING.
I DIDN'T FIND HIM. HE FOUND ME.
DON'T LOOK TOO YUMMY.
HE WAS IMPRESSED BY MY UNIQUE APPEARANCE.
NO NOSE. HOW DO YOU SMELL?
NOT AS BAD AS YOU DO, FELLA.
WE BECAME FAST FRIENDS AFTER THAT.
THEY CALL ME FRED.
CUGAT, DOC CUGAT.

FREDERICK HELPED ME ESTABLISH MY LATEST LABORATORY.

BECAUSE OF HIS QUIET NATURE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIM AS A PACIFIST.

I'M HUNGRY, DOC.

AGAIN?

WELL, HANG TIGHT. WE'LL BE BACK AT THE LAB SOON.

AS A SCIENTIST, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO PRE-JUDGE.

HELLO, DOC. WE WARNED YOU ABOUT KEEPING OUT OF OUR TURF

AND NOW YOU MUST *PAY* THE TOLL.

AND THE TOLL IS YOUR DEATH.

TWANG!

SHOONK

...UNNH.

YOU'VE HURT DOC!

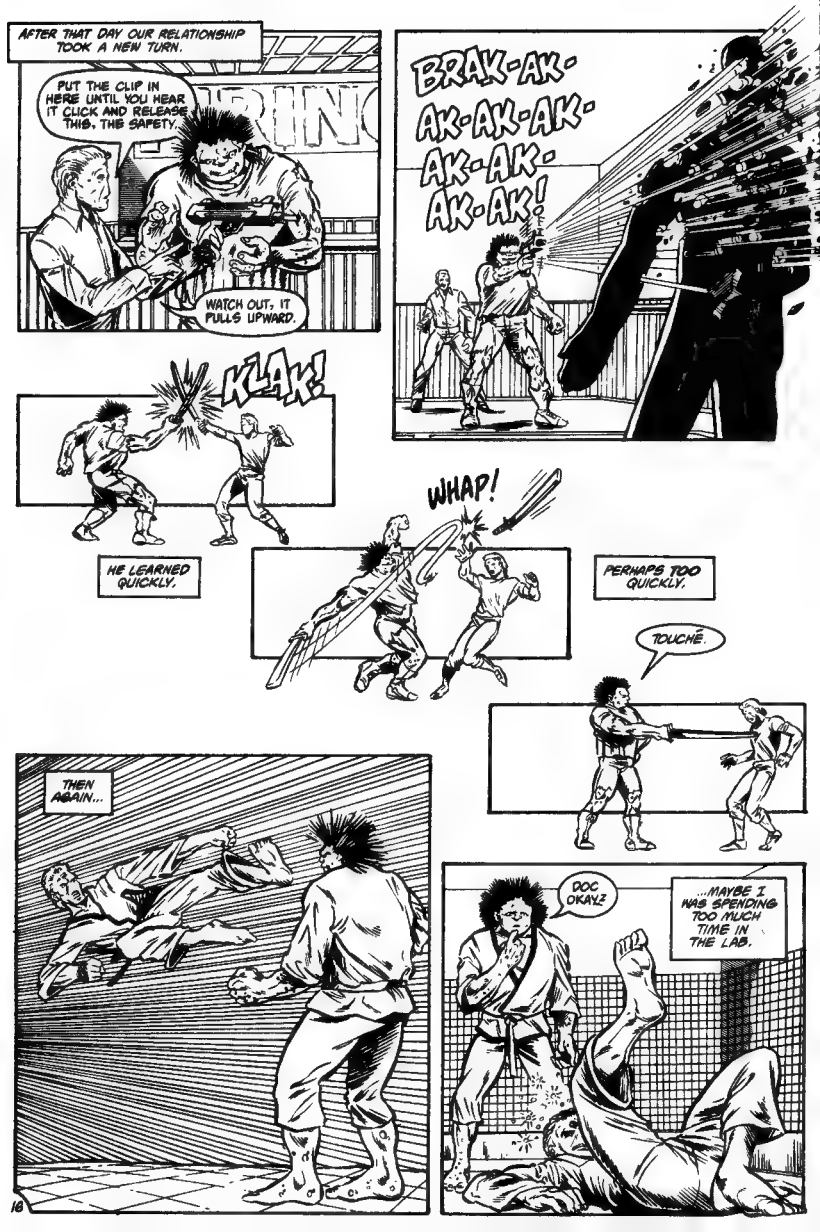
TWANG!

SWOOSH

NAB

AND THEN THE *TRUE* FREDERICK CAME TO THE SURFACE.

YAAAAAARRGH!
THP!
GOK!
BASH!
WHOOOOO
NOBODY HURTS DOC!
BOOMP
NOBODY!
SLASH!
HACK!
CHOP!


AFTER THAT DAY OUR RELATIONSHIP TOOK A NEW TURN.
PUT THE CLIP IN HERE UNTIL YOU HEAR IT CLICK AND RELEASE THIS. THE SAFETY.
WATCH OUT, IT PULLS UPWARD.
BRAK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK!
KLAK!
HE LEARNED QUICKLY.
WHAP!
PERHAPS TOO QUICKLY.
TOUCHÉ.
THEN AGAIN...
DOC OKAY?
...MAYBE I WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN THE LAB.

FREDERICK ALSO TOOK AN INTEREST IN MY EXPERIMENTS.

SO MUCH SO THAT HE WANTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ONE OF THEM-- THE BEGINNING OF MY MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT...

THIS'LL HURT. BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND.

...THE REBIRTH OF THE HUMAN RACE.

BUT WITHOUT THAT GENERATOR, THERE WON'T BE ONE

DOC! GET DOWN!

BRAK-AK-AK-AK-AK-AK!

BKOW! BKOW!
BRAK-AK-AK!
AARGH...
COVER OUR BACKSIDE, FREDERICK. WE'RE GOING IN.
BKOW! BKOW!
HOLD IT, DOC.
THIS AREA'S OFF...
SCIENCE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES, GENTLEMEN.
BRAK-AK-AK-AK-AK!
BRAK-AK, AK-AK!
BKOW! BKOW!
ALMOST OUT.
HOW'S YOUR AMMUNITION HOLDING UP?

HERE, YOU'LL BE NEEDING THIS SHORTLY

...IF WE'RE TO GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
SHK!
SHK!

I KNEW HE'D COME BACK...

HE'S RECKLESS BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIRE HIS SPIRIT

IF ANYBODY CAN SAVE THE HUMAN RACE DOC CUGAT CAN.

ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT NEED A LITTLE HELP.

THIS IS THE LAST DOOR IN THE PLACE I'M GOING IN!
BRAK-AK
AK
AK
HA! END OF THE LINE.
BKOW! BKOW! BKOW!
NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO THE LAB AND HOOK IT UP
HURRY, FREDERICK! THEY'VE CALLED UP REINFORCEMENTS!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DOC!
BKOW! BKOW!
BRAK AK-AK!
SSSSSSSS
AAAUGH!
FREDERICK!

DAMN.
WITHOUT FREDERICK, I'VE NO BACK-UP.

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE...
ULP.
HELLO, DOCTOR. OFF TO SEE THE *WIZARD?*

CLICK-
ICK-
ICK-
ICK.
YOU SHOULD SWITCH TO A *BLADE*, DOCTOR.

NO MUSS, NO FUSS, AND THEY *NEVER* NEED RELOADING.

WELL, DOCTOR, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE SUBJECT OF OUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT?
I WAS MORE EMBARRASSED THAN SCARED.
HEADS UP, DOCTOR!
AFTER ALL I'D BEEN THROUGH THE LAST FEW YEARS...
HOW COULD I BE SCARED OF A KNIFE?
THK!

I THINK IT'S TIME WE GOT DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS, DOCTOR.
YOU'VE BEEN WARNED MANY TIMES ABOUT TRESPASSING INTO OUR TERRITORY.
YOU KNOW HOW THE CITY IS DIVIDED UP.
AND STILL YOU COME.
MY WORK IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY BOUNDARIES YOU ESTABLISH, DONOVAN.
YOUR CRIMINAL CAREER IS AT AN END, DOCTOR.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS
AND PREPARE TO DIE!

I'VE HAD A GOOD LIFE.
I JUST WISH THERE WAS SOMEONE TO CARRY ON MY WORK--SOMEONE TO MAKE SENSE OF MY NOTES.
K-CHING!
I THINK IT'S YOU WHO'VE BEEN WARNED TOO MANY TIMES, DONOVAN.
YOU!
AND IT'S YOU WHO MUST DIE!
WHAT BEAUTY.
THUNK!
WHAT GRACE.
HMM.

GET HER!
SHE'S ONLY ONE GIRL!
AND AN UGLY ONE AT THAT!
UGLY?
POW!
SLASH!
I'LL SHOW YOU UGLY!
SLICE!
CRUNCH!
HACK!
UH-OH. COMPANY.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA!!!
KEW! KEW! KEW! KEW! KEW! KEW! KEW!

I...I THINK... YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH.
NOW BACK OFF!
SNIKT!
WATCH YOUR HEAD, DOC.
HAVE YOU GOT THE GENERATOR, FISHER?
RIGHT HERE!
THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS.
AND MY SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU, ERIN. THIS MAKES TWICE THAT YOU'VE SAVED MY SCIENTIFIC SKIN.
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE LAB WITH US?
WHAT ABOUT FREDERICK?
NOBODY COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT. BESIDES...
"I'VE GOT SOMEONE I THINK YOU SHOULD MEET."
END

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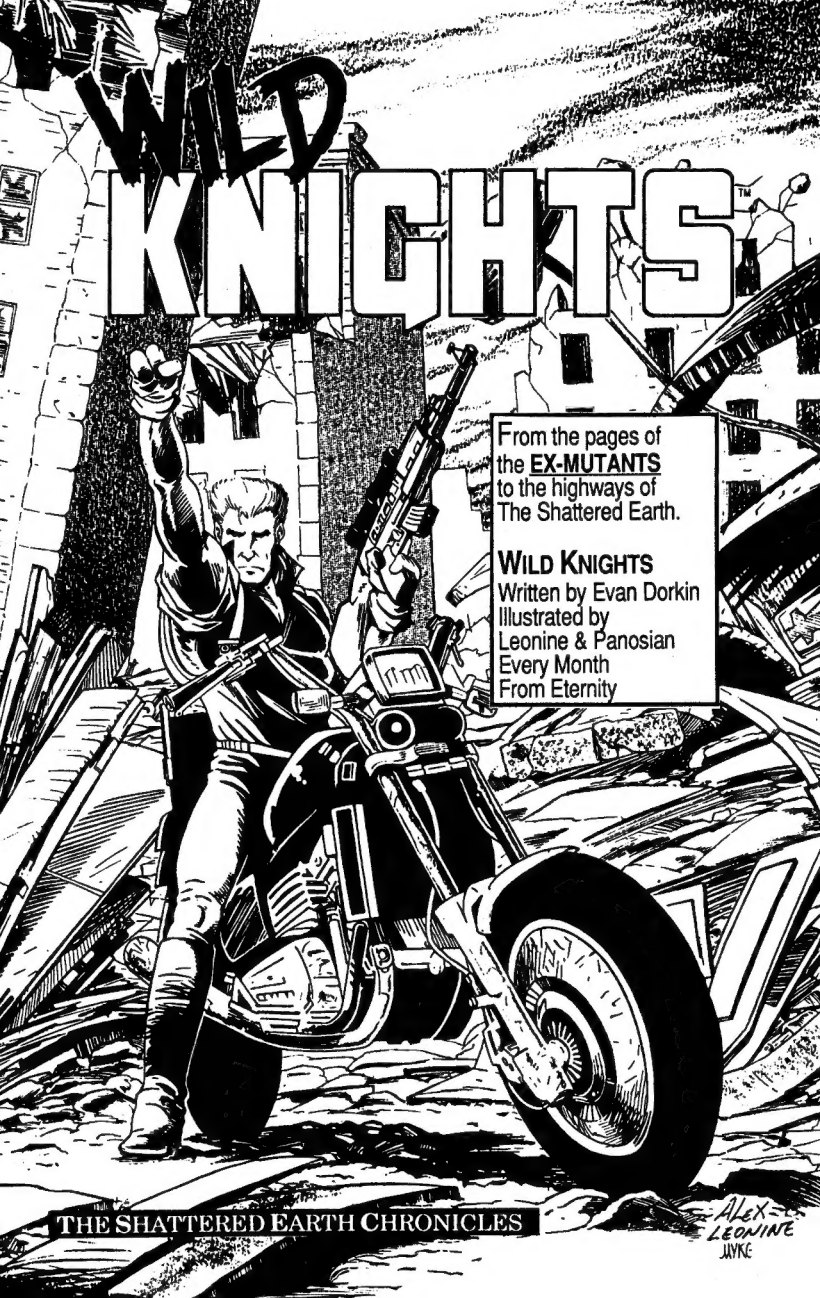
WILD KNIGHTS™
From the pages of the EX-MUTANTS to the highways of The Shattered Earth.
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Written by Evan Dorkin
Illustrated by Leonine & Panosian
Every Month
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JANUARY 11TH, 2009